GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1756
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2001
CASTE BASED REGIMENTS
MANSINH PATEL

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to dismantle caste-based regiments continuing since pre-independence days;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (c): The post-Independence policy of the Government has been not to raise any new regiment on the basis of a particular class, creed, community, religion or region, but to have an Army in which, all Indians have representation. The nomenclatures of some regiments, raised before Independence, on the basis of class/community/region, have been retained due to historical, security and administrative considerations.